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A man named Couch has filed a homestead claim on one hundred and sixty acres of the site; but owing to its remoteness, it will not be of great advantage to him, even should he fence it in, as I understood he contemplates doing. If possible, it should be set apart by the Government.

THE ISLAND OF GUAM.

This map of the Island of Guam is reduced from the map published by the War Department, the result of the Government



GUAM.

survey. The facts here given with regard to the island are taken from Brig.-Gen. Joseph Wheeler's report on Guam, published by

the War Department, and the article by Mr. W. E. Safford in the last report of the Smithsonian Institution. These reports embody the best and latest information that American investigations have made accessible.

The island is twenty-nine miles long and from three to ten miles wide, with an area of about 150 square miles, or seven times as large as Manhattan Island. It is four days' steaming to the east of the Philippines. Little is known about the interior; for the jungle is so dense that not even the natives have penetrated far into it, except in two or three places, where paths extend from coast to coast. A fine view of the northern third of the island is obtained from the summit of the low mountain, Santa Rosa peak, which is easily reached. All the inhabitants live along the coasts, and most of them along the west coast. The natives have cleared away a narrow strip of the jungle, bordering the sea, for their plantations.

A chain of low mountains, scarcely over 1,000 feet high, stretches along the southwest and south coasts, some twelve miles, and from two to three miles in the interior. Guam, like all the other islands of the Ladrones, of which it is the southern and the largest member, was built up partly by outpourings from volcanoes and partly by the work of coral insects. It has this advantage over the islands to the north, that its volcanoes are all extinct; while there are still eruptive mountains on some of the more northern islands. Guam is, however, subject to severe earthquakes.

The northern half of Guam consists almost wholly of coral rock, which is very porous, so that the rain sinks immediately into it, and makes its way by underground channels to the sea; thus there are no springs or rivers in the northern part of the island. Near Agaña, the capital, however, is a large spring, yielding a copious water supply, which oozes through a swamp and widens into a river. Near the sea it has been artificially lengthened and turned for a mile, parallel to the coast, for the convenience of the natives. This is one of the reasons why two-thirds of the population is centred at Agaña. Some of the streams in the southern part of Guam lose themselves beneath the surface for a time, and then reappear from limestone caverns.

Nearly all the inhabitants, though farmers, live in the towns, and go out to their ranchos to raise their crops. Most of the entire population of about 9,000 is distributed among six towns: Agaña, containing 6,400 inhabitants; Sumai, 900; Ynarajan, 550; Agate, 400; Merizo, 300; and Umata, 200. A number of hamlets, each containing a few huts, are also distributed along the shores.



Agaña, the metropolis of the island, achieved its pre-eminence by reason of its abundant water supply, although there is only a roadstead in front of it, with unsafe anchorage. San Luis d'Apra is the largest harbour of the island, with a number of small towns along its extensive shores. Port Tarofoto, on the southeast coast, is the only harbour next to San Luis which can receive vessels at all seasons of the year. Port Ynaranjan and Agfayan Bay have good anchorage, and are of some importance in the *coprá* trade. Umata was once important commercially; but, since its destruction by an earthquake in 1849, Agaña has forged far ahead of it.

The towns of the west coast are connected by paths or roads. The road from Agaña to the north passes through an especially fertile country; and there are two passageways across the island—a fairly good road from Agaña to Pago and a poor path from Apra, diagonally across to Ynaranjan.

The gentle Chamorros, the aboriginal inhabitants, have heartily welcomed the advent of the Americans. They are lighter in colour than the Filipinos, fully clad, subject to few diseases, and cheerful in disposition. They procure their food from the farms or the sea, live in very well-built houses, many of them of stone, and manufacture at home most of the things they need. Many of them are half-breeds, their fathers being American and British whalers, whose visits are now very rare. The influence of the Roman Catholic missionaries, who have lived among them for generations, has been favourable; and the Caroline Islanders, about 100 of whom came to the island as farm labourers and now till their own little farms, are far behind the natives of Guam in civilization.

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#### TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF THE UNITED STATES.

During the twenty-three years' existence of the Geological Survey it has mapped thirty-two per cent. of the area of the United States, exclusive of Alaska; or, in other words, there have been mapped to date 967,000 square miles of the country, on scales ranging from four miles to an inch, two miles to an inch, and one mile to an inch, up to large-scale detailed surveys for special areas.

During the past season there were in the field over ninety separate parties. These were working in thirty-four different States and Territories, including Alaska, and comprised a force which included eighty-two topographers, ten other party chiefs, and about